

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: TRIALS

1. SUMMARY. THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE APRIL 1967 COUP OPENED ON JULY 28, OVERSHADOWING ALL OTHER NEWS. GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS SOUGHT TO EXCULPATE HIS CO-DEFENDANTS BY STATING HE ASSUMED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTION. SEVERAL OF THE DEFENDANTS ANNOUNCED THEY WILL REMAIN SILENT DURING THE TRIAL. THE LAWYERS FOR 16 OF THEM DECLARED THE TRIAL TO BE ILLEGAL AND WALKED OUT. THE PRESIDING JUDGE APPOINTED A SUBSTITUTE AND RECESSED THE TRIAL UNTIL JULY 30 TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO GET BRIEFED. MEANWHILE, THE TRIAL OF THE 21 OFFICERS CHARGED WITH THE FEBRUARY 1975 CONSPIRACY BEGAN ON JULY 21 AND HAS ALSO BEEN RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LONG-AWAITED TRIAL OF THE LEADERS OF THE APRIL 21 1967 COUP OPENED ON JULY 28. (TWENTY OF THE 21 DEFENDANTS WENT ON TRIAL. THEOFILOYANAKOS WILL BE TRIED LATER SEPARATELY. HE WILL FIRST GO ON TRIAL ON AUGUST 7 ON CHARGES OF TORTURE.) THOSE EXPECTING IMMEDIATE AND DRAMATIC REVELATIONS WERE INITIALLY

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DISAPPOINTED, INCLUDING THE GREEK PRESS WHICH DUBBED

THE TRIAL THE "GREEK NUREMBURG".

3. THE ONLY DRAMA THUS FAR CAME WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS VOWED TO THE COURT THAT "I WILL NOT SPEAK AGAIN. I WAS THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION... I ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL WHO TOOK PART." PAPADOPOULOS' ASSERTION FOLLOWED A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE LAWYERS FOR SIXTEEN OF THE TWENTY DEFENDANTS THAT THE TRIAL WAS ILLEGAL AND UNJUST. THE LAWYERS THEN WALKED OUT OF THE COURT. (THE COURT IS CONSIDERING CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGES AGAINST THE LAWYERS FOR THE LANGUAGE THEY USED IN PRESENTING THEIR ARGUMENTS.)

4. REMARKS BY TWO OTHER DEFENDANTS, FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT STELIOS PATTAKOS AND FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT NICOLAOS MAKAREZOS, INDICATE THAT THE SIXTEEN DEFENDANTS--INCLUDING FORMER CHIEF OF THE MILITARY POLICE DIMITRIOS IOANNIDES--ARE AGREED TO REMAIN SILENT DURING THE TRIAL. BOTH PATTAKOS AND MAKAREZOS ALSO REFUSED, IN THEIR BRIEF REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO THE READING OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM, TO ALLOW PAPADOPOULOS TO ABSOLVE THEM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUP. THREE OF THE DEFENDANTS REPORTEDLY ARE NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN WHAT THE PRESS IS NOW LABELING "A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE" AND THE ATTITUDE OF A FOURTH DEFENDANT IS UNKNOWN.

5. MEANWHILE, THE TRIAL OF THE FEBRUARY 1975 MILITARY CONSPIRACY, WHICH BEGAN ON JULY 21 ENTERED ITS NINTH DAY. TESTIMONY THUS FAR HAS BEEN CONTRADICTORY AND THE OUTSIDER IS LEFT CONFUSED AS TO WHAT EXACTLY THE DEFENDANTS WERE UP TO IN FEBRUARY.

6. THE UNITED STATES WAS BRIEFLY DRAGGED INTO THE TRIAL OF THE FEBRUARY PLOTTERS ON SATURDAY. A PROSECUTION WITNESS CLAIMED THAT ONE OF THE ACCUSED TOLD HIM THE PLOTTERS WERE ASSURED SUPPORT BY A "FOREIGN FACTOR". EARLIER IT HAD BEEN MENTIONED THAT \$2 BILLION (SIS) IN AID HAD BEEN PROMISED FROM ABROAD. WHEN ASKED BY THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY TO ELUCIDATE AND WHETHER HE MEANT TURKEY, THE WITNESS REPLIED: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"IT IS WELL-KNOWN...I MEAN AMERICA." NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO DOCUMENT THE FANTASTIC CHARGE BUT THIS BRIEF EXCHANGE PRODUCED A FLICKER OF DRAMATIC HEADLINES IN TWO OPPOSITION PAPERS THAT "THE AMERICANS" WERE BEHIND THE CONSPIRACY. KUBISCH

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